

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00816 251032Z

47

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

/062 W

----- 100867

R 220815Z NOV 74

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1414

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 816

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IZ

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT AL-BAKR'S HEALTH AND SUCCESSION QUESTION

REF: BAGHDAD 764

1. PRESIDENT AL-BAKR HAS NOT MADE PUBLIC APPEARANCE SINCE BEFORE DEATH OF HIS WIFE ON NOVEMBER 17. RUMORS ARE RIFE ABOUT STATE OF HIS HEALTH, WITH DIAGNOSES RANGING FROM A MILD FORM OF DIABETES (YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR) TO SERIOUS HEART ATTACK (PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR). BRITISH ARE ATTEMPTING TO CONFIRM THEIR REPORT OF CANCER OF STOMACH (REFTEL). ONLY CERTAINTY IS THAT PRESIDENT IS ILL, SINCE EVEN DG OF PROTOCOL HAS ADMITTED THIS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BAGHDA 00816 251032Z

NEW AMBASSADORS FROM FRG, INDIA AND BANGLADESH WAITING TO PRESENT CREDENTIALS.

2. IF PRESIDENT AL-BAKR SHOULD DIE OR LEAVE OFFICE IT SEEMS VIRTUALLY CERTAIN THAT SADDAM HUSSEIN WOULD REPLACE HIM AS PRESIDENT. IN ADDITION TO BEING DE FACTO PRIME MINISTER, SADDAM HAS DURING PAST YEAR INCREASINGLY EXERCISED PUBLIC ROLE OF HEAD OF STATE (E.G. RABAT SUMMIT, STATE VISITS TO INDIA, YUGOSLAVIA, AND ALGERIA, AND RECEPTION OF FOREIGN GUESTS IN BAGHDAD). IN ADDITION, CABINET RESHUFFLE OF NOVEMBER 11 (BAGHDAD 792) CONSOLIDATED HIS PERSONAL CONTROL AND SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT SERIOUS OPPOSITION. YUGOSLAV AMB TOLD ME THAT PRESIDENT AL-BAKR HAD APPROVED ALL CABINET CHANGES AND THAT THERE ARE NO SERIOUS DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SADDAM AND THE PRESIDENT. IN SHORT, SADDAM IS ALREADY DE FACTO PRESIDENT AND THERE APPEARS TO BE NO OBSTACLE TO HIS BECOMING DE JURE PRESIDENT IF AND WHEN IT BECOMES NECESSARY.

3. ACCORDING TO INTERIM CONSTITUTION, SADDAM AS VICE CHAIRMAN OF RCC AUTOMATICALLY REPLACES PRESIDENT IN CASE HE UNABLE TO EXERCISE HIS FUNCTIONS "FOR ANY LEGAL REASON." (ART 38B). NEW PRESIDENT MUST BE ELECTED BY RCC FROM AMONG ITS MEMBERS BY MAJORITY OF TWO-THIRDS. (ART 38A). THESE LEGAL NICETIES UNLIKELY TO INFLUENCE SUCCESSION. LOWRIE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEDICAL CARE, HEALTH
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BAGHDA00816
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740341-0937
From: BAGHDAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741122/aaaaarvz.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BAGHDAD 764
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <21 MAR 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT AL-BAKR'S HEALTH AND SUCCESSION QUESTION
TAGS: PINT, IZ, (AL-BAKR, AHMAD HASAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005